



AGENDA ITEM: 9

CABINET: 15 March 2016

**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
31 March 2016**

Report of: Director of Housing and Inclusion

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor J. Patterson

**Contact for further information: Mrs T. Berry (Extn. 5227)
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SUBJECT: TENANT INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY 2016-2018

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for the new Tenant Involvement Strategy 2016-2018 and associated Action Plan shown at Appendix A.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

2.1 That the Strategy and associated Action Plan be approved.

2.2 That the Director of Housing and Inclusion, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, be authorised to amend the Strategy and Action Plan having considered agreed comments of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.3 That Call In is not appropriate for this item as the report is being submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 31 March 2016.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3.1 That Executive Overview and Scrutiny Members note the Strategy and associated Action Plan.

3.2 That any agreed comments be considered by the Director of Housing and Inclusion, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to decide whether it is appropriate to amend the Strategy and/or Action Plan.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The current Tenant Involvement Strategy was agreed in September 2011.
- 4.2 The purpose of the Strategy is to evidence the Councils commitment to Tenant Involvement and Engagement as part of the Housing Regulators requirement.

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 A number of changes have taken place since the adoption of the current strategy, including changes to the tenant scrutiny arrangements, and these needed to be reflected in a new Tenant Involvement Strategy.
- 5.2 These changes have included a change in the way Social Housing is regulated. This function is now managed by the Home and Communities Agency by means of the Social Housing Regulatory Framework.
- 5.3 The new Framework was introduced in 2012 but has since been updated in 2015.
- 5.4 The new Tenant Involvement Strategy 2016-2018 supports the requirements of the Tenant Involvement and Empowerment Standard within the regulatory framework.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 A number of Tenants have been involved in consulting and developing the new strategy through workshops and surveys.
- 6.2 Housing staff have also had an opportunity to comment on the new strategy.
- 6.3 The Tenants Scrutiny Group has endorsed the strategy and will have a role in monitoring its implementation as part of the co-regulatory compliance framework.

7.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 7.1 Delivery of this strategy will help with improving tenant relations and will support the principles of the community strategy.

8.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no additional financial or resource implications arising from this report. Delivery of the strategy will be managed within existing resources.

9.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 This item does not require a formal risk assessment and no changes have been made to risk registers as services will be delivered as specified by tenants expectations.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A formal equality impact assessment is attached as an Appendix to this report, the results of which have been taken into account in the Recommendations contained within this report

Appendices

Appendix A – Tenant Involvement Strategy 2016-2018

Appendix B - Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix C – Minute of the Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group) held on 9 March 2016

Appendix D – Minute of Cabinet 15 March 2016 (Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee only)